IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A document retrieval method, comprising:

receiving a request email message from a requesting device via a network, the request email message embodying a document request;

determining from the request email address whether a destination address on the network to which at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent is a third party address or an originator address on the network, the originator address being associated with the requesting device;

automatically generating a forwarding email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the third party address, the forwarding email message being addressed to the third party address;

automatically generating a reply ~~response~~ email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the originator address on the network, the reply email message being addressed to the originator address; and

automatically transmitting the response email message to the ~~a~~ destination address on the network.

2.   (Original) The document retrieval method of claim 1, further comprising parsing the request email message to identify the destination address.

3.   (Original) The document retrieval method of claim 1, further comprising parsing the request email message to identify the at least one document requested in the document request.

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4.   (Original) The document retrieval method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining if the requesting device is authorized to retrieve the at least one document; and

automatically generating an access denial email message in response to the request email message when the requesting device is not authorized to retrieve the at least one document.

5.   (Original) The document retrieval method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a directory request email message that embodies a request for a directory file listing from the requesting device;

automatically generating the directory file listing in response to the request therefor;

placing the directory file listing into a directory response email message; and

automatically transmitting the directory response email message to the destination address.

6.   (Original) The document retrieval method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether the request email message is properly formatted; and

transmitting an error message to the requesting device when the request email message is not properly formatted.

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7.   (Original) The document retrieval method of claim 5, further comprising:

determining whether the directory request email message is properly formatted; and

transmitting an error message to the requesting device when the directory request email message is not properly formatted.

8.   (Currently Amended) A program embodied in a computer readable medium, comprising:

code that temporarily stores a request email message in a memory that was received from a requesting device via a network, the request email message embodying a document request;

code that determines from the request email address whether a destination address on the network to which at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent is a third party address or an originator address on the network, the originator address being associated with the requesting device;

code that automatically generates a forwarding email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the third party address, the forwarding email message being addressed to the third party address;

code that automatically generates a reply response email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the originator address on the network, the reply email message being addressed to the originator address; and

code that automatically transmits the response email message to a destination address on the network.

9.   (Original) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 8, further comprising code that parses the request email message to identify the destination address.

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10.   (Original) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 8, further comprising code that parses the request email message to identify the at least one document requested in the document request.

11.   (Original) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 8, further comprising:

code that determines if the requesting device is authorized to retrieve the at least one document; and

code that automatically generates an access denial email message in response to the request email message when the requesting device is not authorized to retrieve the at least one document.

12.   (Original) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 8, further comprising:

code that temporarily stores a directory request email message in a memory that was received from the requesting device, the directory request email message embodying a request for a directory file listing;

code that automatically generates the directory file listing in response to the request therefor;

code that places the directory file listing into a directory response email message; and

code that automatically transmits the directory response email message to the destination address.

13.   (Original) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 8, further comprising:

code that determines whether the request email message is properly formatted; and

code that transmits an error message to the requesting device when the request email message is not properly formatted.

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14.   (Original) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 12, further comprising:

code that determines whether the directory request email message is properly formatted; and

code that transmits an error message to the requesting device when the directory request email message is not properly formatted.

15.   (Currently Amended) A document retrieval system, comprising:

a processor circuit having a processor and a memory;

a document retriever stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the document retriever comprising:

logic that temporarily stores a request email message in a memory that was received from a requesting device via a network, the request email message embodying a document request;

logic that determines from the request email address whether a destination address on the network to which at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent is a third party address or an originator address on the network, the originator address being associated with the requesting device;

logic that automatically generates a forwarding email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the third party address, the forwarding email message being addressed to the third party address;

logic that automatically generates a reply ~~response~~ email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the originator address on the network, the reply email message being addressed to the originator address; and

logic that automatically transmits the response email message to a destination address on the network.

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16.   (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 15, wherein the document retriever further comprises logic that parses the request email message to identify the destination address.

17.   (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 15, wherein the document retriever further comprises logic that parses the request email message to identify the at least one document requested in the document request.

18.   (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 15, wherein the document retriever further comprises:

logic that determines if the requesting device is authorized to retrieve the at least one document; and

logic that automatically generates an access denial email message in response to the request email message when the requesting device is not authorized to retrieve the at least one document.

19.   (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 15, wherein the document retriever further comprises:

logic that temporarily stores a directory request email message in a memory that was received from the requesting device, the directory request email message embodying a request for a directory file listing;

logic that automatically generates the directory file listing in response to the request therefor;

logic that places the directory file listing into a directory response email message; and

logic that automatically transmits the directory response email message to the destination address.

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20.   (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 15, wherein the document retriever further comprises:

logic that determines whether the request email message is properly formatted; and

logic that transmits an error message to the requesting device when the request email message is not properly formatted.

21.   (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 19, wherein the document retriever further comprises:

logic that determines whether the directory request email message is properly formatted; and

logic that transmits an error message to the requesting device when the directory request email message is not properly formatted.

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22. (Currently Amended) A document retrieval system, comprising:

means for temporarily storing a request email message that was received from a requesting device via a network, the request email message embodying a document request;

means for determining from the request email address whether a destination address on the network to which at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent is a third party address or an originator address on the network, the originator address being associated with the requesting device:

means for automatically generating a forwarding email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the third party address, the forwarding email message being addressed to the third party address;

means for automatically generating a reply response email message with the at least one document attached thereto in response to the document request if the at least one document specified in the document request is to be sent to the originator address on the network, the reply email message being addressed to the originator address; and

means for automatically transmitting the response email message to a destination address on the network.

23. (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 22, further comprising means for parsing the request email message to identify the destination address.

24. (Original) The document retrieval system of claim 22, further comprising means for parsing the request email message to identify the at least one document requested in the document request.

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